

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00

FEA-01 /097 W

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R 171327Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1289

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, EG

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS REPLAYS BLASTS AT SADAT

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS BEGINS EXPECTED PROPAGANDA
CAMPAIGN AIMED AT SADAT. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRAL PRESS (MARCH 17) BEGINS REPLAYING ARAB AS WELL
AS WESTERN REACTION TO SADAT'S DECISION RE THE 1971 TREATY.
NOT SURPRISINGLY, ALL REPOSRTS ZERO IN ON SADAT BY NAME
OR BLAST "THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT", AND THUS REINFORCE THE
EXPECTED SOVIET THEME OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN SADAT AND

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THE EQYPTIAN PEOPLE. OTHER GENERAL THEMES RUNNING
THROUGH THE ARTICLES CHOSEN BY MOSCOW ARE: THE MOVE IS

ANOTHER EGYPTIAN BLOW TO ARAB UNITY; SADAT IGNORED THE CONSTANT AND STRONG SUPPORT WHICH THE SOVIET UNION HAS PROVIDED NOT ONLY EGYPT BUT OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES AS WELL; AND, THE MOVE SERVES THE INTERESTS OF ISRAEL AND THE U.S. MORE THAN THOSE OF ANY OTHER PARTY. IN THIS REGARD, THE SOVIET PRESS HIGHLIGHTS EXCERPTS FROM U.S. NEWSPAPERS WHICH STATE THAT SADAT'S ACTION COULD "DRAW EGYPT INTO THE ORBIT OF THE WEST" (NYT), "THIS IS GOOD NEWS FOR THE U.S. AND ISRAEL" (NYDAILY NEWS), AND "WILL SADAT BE ABLE TO AVOID THE AMERICAN ORBIT?" (WP). THE COVERAGE IMPLICITLY PROVIDES ITS OWN VIEWS AS IT POINTS OUT SADAT'S RECENT TALKS WITH THE "ANTI-COMMUNIST OIL BARONS OF THE PERSIAN GULF WHO PROMISED HIM FINANCIAL SUPPORT." HOWEVER, THE REPORT CONCLUDES, SADAT HAD TO "JUSTIFY" THIS HELP IN HIS "TERRITORIAL AND ECONOMIC PLANS."

3. COMMENT. THERE ARE NO SURPRISES IN THE GENERAL TACK OF SOVIET MEDIA REACTION SO FAR, AND EVEN ROUGHER SAILING FOR SADAT IS MOST PROBABLY ON THE HORIZON. IT IS ALSO QUITE LIKELY THAT ANY AMERICAN STATEMENTS EXPRESSING SATISFACTION OVER THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE DEPICTED BY THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA MACHINE AS PROOF OF SADAT'S PERFDY TO THE ARAB-CUM-SOVIET CAUSE.
STOESSEL

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